



COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

MAY 2021 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



Ringo

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**ASSOCIATION
 OF ZOOS &
 AQUARIUMS**

The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization certified by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for this logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.



TO SUBSCRIBE to our monthly newsletter, go to wolfeducation.org and sign up on the newsletter page.

CONTACT US
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| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

While we are all coping with our new way of life, you can still stay up to date with the animals here at CWWC. We are working to keep you involved in the work we are doing here, knowing how our animals are doing, and staying educated about wildlife news.

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel:
ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter

We post bi-weekly videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals. Our bi-weekly educational vlog about wolves—*Wolf Wisdom with Erika*—talks about the wolf reintroduction of wolves in Colorado, and other hot topics.

Follow us on Facebook:
Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center

Thursdays between 3-4pm we have a Ask a Keeper livestream where you can ask us all those questions you've been dying to know. Every Friday at 8pm we post a video of one of

our keepers howling with the wolves for the Go Outside and Howl at 8 movement. We also share current wildlife events and stories that are happening around the world to keep you informed.

Follow us on Instagram:
cowolfcenter

We post pictures of our beautiful animals, share stories of what we are doing around the center, and keep you up to date on everything wolf and wildlife related. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.

We will also be doing monthly and possibly weekly giveaways and sales. These will only be announced on our social media so make sure you follow us on every platform and turn on your notifications.

We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!

NA'VI SNUGGLING HIS BALL!



LOOKING FOR A REAL ESTATE AGENT?

CALL LORIANNE!

Let me help you buy or sell your home. Schedule your appointment to get a complimentary market evaluation. Part of my commissions will go to Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, so buying or listing with me means helping a great cause!



Lorianne Willingham
 Wandering Wolf Homes
 Fathom Realty
 719.437.5600
wanderingwolfhomes@gmail.com

HELP AMERICA'S WOLVES:



<https://tinyurl.com/RestoreWolfProtection>

SLOVAKIA FINALLY BANS WOLF HUNTING

The wolf is set to become a fully protected species in Slovakia after the country implemented a total ban on hunting.

Marek Grzegorzczak | Emerging Europe
May 12, 2021

The hunting of wolves will be illegal in Slovakia from June 1, after the country finally adopted new rules that bring it into line with European Union guidelines. A European Commission infringement process was launched against Slovakia in 2013 for breaching a directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. While this resulted in a wolf hunting ban in Natura 2000 sites, wolves in other areas were not protected: hunters in Slovakia have therefore legally killed almost 1,800 wolves since 2000.

In addition to legal hunting, wolves are also endangered by poachers.

“Wolves, as top predators, play a vital role in keeping nature in balance,” says Jerguš Tesák, large carnivore expert at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Slovakia, one of many environmental NGOs which has long campaigned for a ban.

“If we really want to protect wolves, we must protect them along with their habitats and movement routes. We have record numbers of deer or wild game at the moment, but a healthy wolf population also has a positive impact on the landscape. It reduces the population of deer, prevents damage of young trees and supports restoration of natural forests. There is no reason for wolf hunting in our country.”

The Danube-Carpathian region – also known as the Green Heart of Europe – is home to some two-thirds of Europe’s populations of large carnivores, including brown bears, wolves and lynx. There are now approximately 12,000 wolves in Europe (excluding Russia), of which 1,000-1,800 are found in Slovakia. For the 2020-21 hunting season, Slovakia’s Ministry of Agriculture approved the hunting of 50 wolves.

Last week, one of Europe’s largest bears was killed – possibly illegally – by hunters in Romania.



SHRINKAGE OF HABITAT

These ecologically critical, strictly protected and culturally significant mammals are threatened not only by legal and illegal hunting, but also by increasing fragmentation and shrinkage of their habitats brought about by the construction of roads and other infrastructure.

However, despite such fierce challenges, in recent years large carnivore populations, particularly wolves, have expanded both within Central and Eastern Europe and to other parts of the continent – often putting them into closer proximity with humans and leading to new challenges.

“We must halt and reverse biodiversity and habitat loss by 2030,” adds Miroslava Plassmann, CEO of WWF-Slovakia. “Within this framework, we concentrate on protecting the natural habitats of large carnivores including their ecological corridors, avoiding unsustainable management practices, improving connectivity at the landscape level, reducing illegal killing, improving large carnivore-human co-existence and reducing conflict, and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.”

Slovakia already provides compensation payments to farmers for losses from wolf attacks. New legislation is now being discussed and reviewed by the farming community which will address their call for more effective and simplified compensation procedures.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SAVE WOLVES?

*Every dollar that is spent in these states that are slaughtering wolves only helps to promote more killings. Choose a state like Colorado, or another state that respects it’s nature and wildlife.

Refrain from Yellowstone Park this year to help wolves. Again, every dollar spent is supporting this horrific slaughter.

***Write and express your comments** to Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. Let her know how appalled you are that something as horrific as this is happening. It is on her watch and she needs to be accountable.

Her information is:

**Department of the Interior
Debra Haaland
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240 or 202-208-3100**

*You can also call the White House and make a comment.

**Comments: 202-456-1111
or Switchboard: 202-456-1414
or go to WH.gov and email your comments.**

Never think that your one voice does not count. With enough of us standing together, we CAN make a difference.

**The wolves need you right now.
Please do it for them.**



Did you know that both IDAHO and MONTANA passed a bill to kill 90% of wolves in their state?

Did you know that some of these wolves are YOUR Yellowstone wolves?

Did you know that the killers will be able to kill pregnant females, their pups, trap and snare (strangle to death), gut shoot them so they can suffer? And this is all LEGAL!

THIS IS A SLAUGHTER.

WHY?

Backers of this bill say that there are too many wolves and they’re attacking cattle, sheep and wildlife, costing agriculture producers hundreds of thousands of dollars and reducing the number of deer and elk available for hunters.

FACT.

CATTLE: Less than a quarter of one percent 0.23% of the American cattle inventory was lost to native carnivores and dogs. The main cause of losses to cattle are respiratory problems at almost 30%. Weather accounts for 12%, Calving problems, 12%, and felids, vultures and theft ranked higher than wolf predation.

SHEEP: **Did you know that** only 4% of the U.S. sheep are killed by carnivores such as coyotes and dogs?

WILDLIFE: **Did you know that** the IDAHO FISH and GAME reported that deer and elk hunters should see plenty of game in Idaho during fall hunts as mild winters have helped rebound mule deer herds? Idaho mule deer hunters claim that the statewide fawn survival data from last winter paints a brighter picture for 2020. About 63% of radio collared fawns survived last winter, which is the highest number in 4 years and above the 20-year average of 57%.

Did you know that MONTANA GAME and FISH states that the current statewide population is estimated to be around 68,000 animals, making ELK the second most abundant big game species in the state just behind mule deer?

Montana has made killing wolves easier. Some hunters are pushing back.

The state has long been championed as a leader in conservation, but many hunters say a raft of new laws push ethical boundaries.

By Natasha Daly
National Geographic
May 13, 2021



New laws would allow the state to permit hunters to kill an unlimited number of wolves, to bait them and hunt them at night, and to set neck snare traps; and will expand the wolf trapping season by 30 days and allow hound hunting of black bears. One law incentivizes trapping by allowing sportsmen's organizations to pay bounties to hunters who kill wolves—a practice that critics note harkens back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the draw of government bounties drove hunters to exterminate the animals from the state.

All of the bills have been passed by Montana's state legislature, with particular support from two factions: agricultural groups concerned about wolf attacks on livestock, and hunters and trappers convinced that wolves drive down elk numbers. Some of the bills already have been signed into law by Governor Greg Gianforte while others await his signature. (In April, Gianforte violated state regulations by trapping a Yellowstone wolf without completing required training.)

The loosening of hunting restrictions—particularly for predators such as wolves—has many long-time hunters in Montana concerned that the action crosses a line from ethical, conservation-minded hunting to indiscriminate killing. Montana had about 60 wolves in the state in the 1990s.

Today, its wolf numbers are up to an estimated 800 to 1,200, thanks to what has been hailed as “one of the most successful reintroductions in U.S. history, from a conservation standpoint,” says Nick Gevock, conservation director at Montana Wildlife Federation.

Montana's legislative push is part of a slew of actions against wolves throughout the western United States, following the Trump Administration's decision to take the Great Lakes region's wolves off the endangered species list in October 2020. (Montana's gray wolf population was taken off the list in 2011.) In Idaho, the governor just signed a law that allows the killing of 90 percent of the state's wolves. And in Wisconsin, over three days in late February, hunters killed 216 wolves—20 percent of the state's wolf population and far above the state's quota of 119, outraging conservationists and many proponents of ethical hunting. A group of hunters in Wisconsin have formed a coalition called Hunters for Wolves, which opposes wolf hunting, arguing that what's happening in Wisconsin violates basic tenants of conservation.

Well-regulated hunting can be an effective and responsible wildlife management tool, meant to control the numbers of certain species and their distributions to ensure a balanced ecosystem, says Gevock, a lifelong hunter. “But it's not meant to

drive animals down to bare minimum number.”

Hunting is considered an integral part of Montana's cultural heritage. The state has long been known for its collaborative conservation efforts with hunters, trappers, and anglers, whose license fees and gun taxes cover some 85 percent of the budget of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) department—including conservation initiatives. But now, Gevock says, “What's going on here is really giving Montana a black eye.”

Rod Bullis, a third-generation Montana hunter, agrees, calling it “an unprecedented war on wildlife.” He continues: “People would say, ‘Wow, you're from Montana! Now, I've had people from around the country calling me and saying, ‘What the hell are you guys doing in Montana to your wildlife?’” he says. “I can't answer it.”

AN UNRAVELING OF REGULATIONS

Wolves are resilient, Gevock and others say, so it's unclear how the loosening of restrictions will affect their numbers in Montana. But “it's playing with fire and leaving very little safety net,” says Jenny Sherry, a wildlife advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), based in Bozeman, Montana. “It's really reckless management of an animal that doesn't have a high population level to begin with in the state.”

© Photograph by Robbie George, Nat Geo Image Collection
After Montana's wolves were declared recovered in 2011, the state allowed wolf hunting to start up again. In the 2020-2021 season, which ended on March 15, hunters killed about 35 percent of the state's wolves, or 327.

The new law that allows unlimited wolf kills, and is likely to go into effect later this year, requires only that enough wolves remain in the state to support at least 15 breeding pairs (defined as a male, female, and two pups).

Supporters of the recent legislation include many in the trapping and outfitting community, including Mac Minard, executive director of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association; they argue that the measures are necessary to keep the wolf population under control, in part because they're depleting elk populations—key big game in the state. “We can't sit by and allow our game, the thing that feeds so many families, to be taken off the table,” Bob Brown, a state senator and sponsor of some of the wolf bills, said during a legislative hearing in March.

But that notion is disputed. “There is no data to back up that elk populations are affected by wolves,” Gevock says. Greg Lemon, spokesperson at the Montana FWP, says that “by and large, elk populations are robust” in Montana, though in some parts of the state, particularly in the



northwest, elk numbers are below objective. However, Lemon says, the “reasons are varied.” Predators may play a role, but so may habitat and hunting pressures.

“FAIR” HUNTING?

Under pending legislation and new laws in Montana, the ways in which wolves can be killed are equally as controversial as the number of wolves that would be allowed to be hunted. Some hunters say that many of the newly allowed hunting and trapping methods violate the concept of fair chase, the idea that an animal should have a reasonable chance to get away and that the hunter doesn’t have an unfair advantage.

“When you talk about night hunting, open baiting, having multiple kills on a single license, it’s like there’s no respect for the animal,” Bullis says. “To me, you have to have respect. Every time I get an elk, I say a prayer. I share it with my family. I’m thankful.”

Minard, on the other hand, says that what constitutes ethical hunting or trapping is subjective, “subject to a broad range of interpretation of value judgments.”

The Boone and Crockett Club, an organization that advocates for fair chase hunting, does not consider the use of snare traps to fall under the umbrella of fair chase, for example, says Justin Spring, director of big game records at the organization. Wildlife advocates view snares as fundamentally inhumane because it can take hours or even days for wolves to die “a slow, agonizing death,” says Stephen Capra, director of Footloose Montana, a nonprofit organization that seeks to end trapping in the state. “It’s nothing but indiscriminate killing,” he says, noting that snares have been documented to capture and kill non-target species including mountain lions and pet dogs.

Minard, who says he has killed about 60 wolves throughout his trapping career and sometimes

uses snare traps, says it’s up to individual trappers to operate snares responsibly. He says there are methods to minimize trapping non-target species.

Capra says he also worries about how many wolves snares could kill—snares are inexpensive, so a person could easily buy and set a hundred of them, he says.

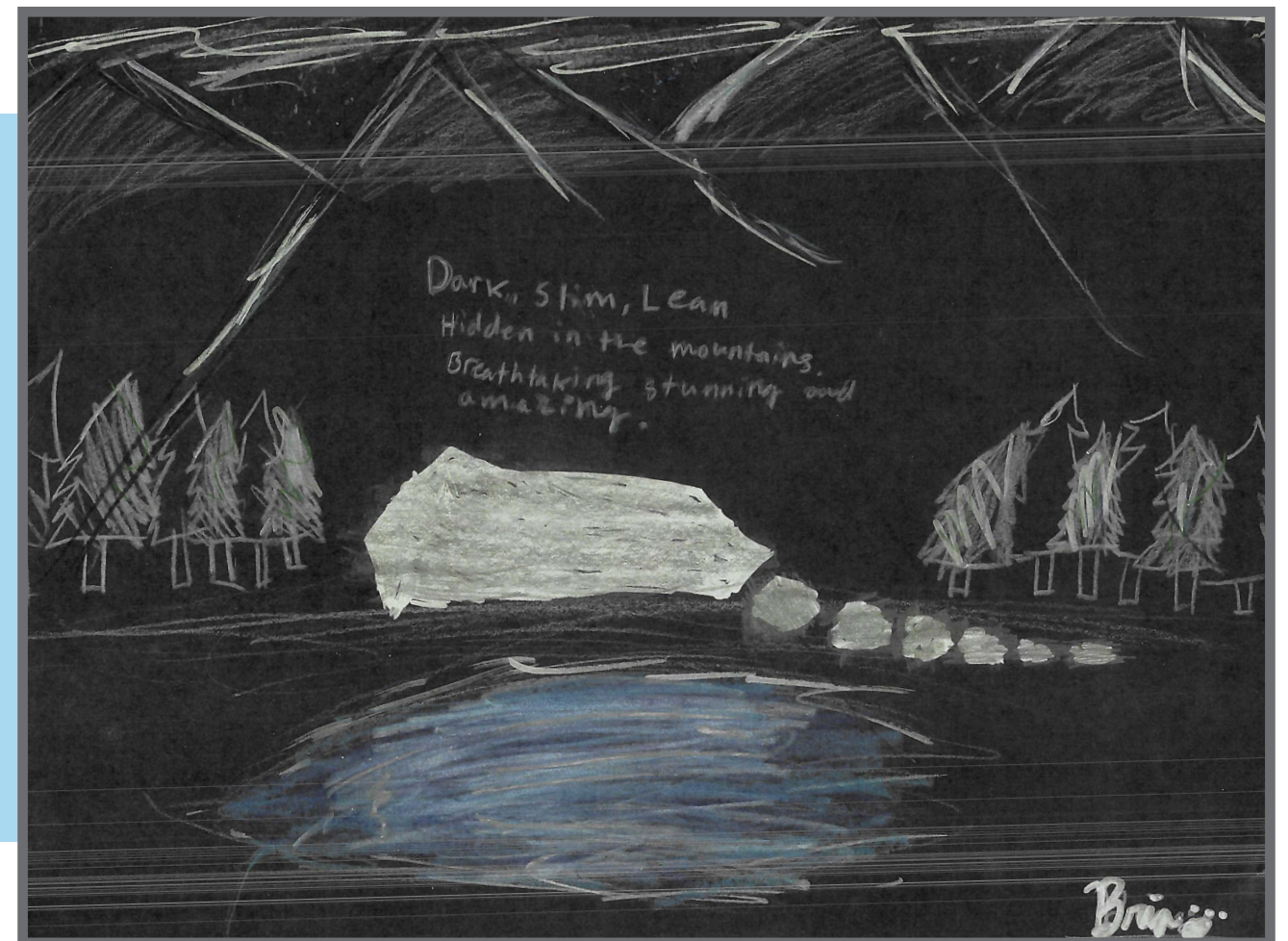
But to proponents, that’s exactly the point. Montana State Representative Paul Fielder, a sponsor of the snaring bill, said at a legislative hearing in February that “allowing the snaring of wolves in Montana by licensed trappers will give wildlife managers another tool to reduce wolf numbers.”

PUTTING LAWS INTO PRACTICE

In a March 16 letter to lawmakers, 49 Montana wildlife biologists and managers condemned the bills, saying they’re based in “misinformation about wildlife” and are “harmful to wildlife and the hunting heritage of Montana.” The 49 signers included three former commissioners of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, FWP’s decision-making body.

Nonetheless, FWP now must draw up proposals as to how the new laws will be interpreted and implemented. The department doesn’t “have a choice to ignore laws enacted,” says spokesperson Lemon. “The department’s role is to determine how to implement the law now that it’s passed.” The agency will make recommendations in the next few months, and those recommendations will be open to public comment.

The new laws will likely be in effect for hunting season next year. Contemplating that, Bullis says, “I don’t want to kill off everything—and I don’t want to be viewed as someone who doesn’t do things with integrity and respect for animals. This war on wolves has started a fight amongst hunters that we don’t need to have,” he concludes. “I have to go testify when I could be out in the woods.”



SIMPLE WAYS TO BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

JENNIFER SCOTT | SPIRITFINDER.ORG



Technology is a useful tool that can be utilized in your efforts to live an eco-conscious life. By introducing eco-friendly technology into your home, you'll be reducing harmful waste and using tech that is energy-efficient, which assists in the preservation of our planet. If you're interested in introducing this kind of technology into your life, you can do so a little bit at a time.

STREAMING DEVICES

Streaming movies and television shows have become more popular as each year passes. Many people are forgoing cable television and DVR equipment for streaming devices, because they offer plenty of features in a portable, convenient format. Plus, there's no shortage of available media content on streaming services. But did you know that ditching those DVRs and cable systems may also be the better environmental choice as well? It may seem like you're not making a big difference, but Slate explains streaming devices are smaller and pull less energy.

LIGHTING

Introducing sustainable lighting to your home not only helps you to do your part in preserving the environment, but it can also be budget-friendly. You could go with simple switches, like

transitioning to LED lighting, which would result in automatic savings. You can also install smart lights that you control from your phone while preserving energy and saving on your electric bill.

No longer will you have to wait all day to turn off that light you forgot to shut off during your morning rush out the door.

Indoor lighting is not the only area that deserves your attention when it comes to eco-friendly options. Nowadays, you can use solar lights outside, whether it's lights to brighten a path or overhead lighting. By simply leaving the solar pads outside during the day, they will use the sun's natural light to charge and illuminate the outdoors at night.

SMART THERMOSTATS

Smart thermostats not only impact your home and budget, but they also keep you from wasting energy when you're not at home. Good Housekeeping explains that with a smart thermostat you can:

- Set up a schedule to increase and decrease the thermostat based on your routine.
- Monitor your usage.
- Break down use by room rather

than monitor the temperature of your home in only one spot like traditional thermostats.

- Control the thermostat from outside the home.

TOILETS

Older toilet models use 3 to 7 gallons of water per flush. If your toilet is outdated, switching it out for a new model will reduce the water usage in your home significantly. If you want to take it one step further, purchase a dual flush toilet. A dual flush toilet has two options: one for liquid waste and the other for solid waste. Since liquid waste requires less water for disposal, you will not only be reducing the average amount of water used, but you will be using even less than a standard toilet.

YOUR WORKPLACE

Whether you're an entry-level employee or the person in charge, taking these good practices into your workplace is a sensible decision. Stretching energy use is the same as stretching dollars, so encourage those in your place of business to be conscientious in their decisions. In fact, you can look to places like Denver, Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C. for inspiration.

These cities are known for being friendly to green entrepreneurs, thanks to things like sustainable energy policies and walkability. You can transition to one of those locations, or you might want to encourage your own community to engage in similar practices.

There are so many ways you can reduce your impact on the planet, lower your energy costs, and live more sustainably. One area of focus that makes a large difference over time is the use of technology in your home. Start with small changes, such as using streaming devices, changing out your lighting and toilets, and installing smart thermostats and power strips. These small changes will make a big impact over months and years.

In addition to finding ways to live a more environmentally-focused lifestyle, consider too supporting conservation efforts in your community. For example, The Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center could use your support as they work to protect wolves, coyotes and foxes, which are crucial to the ecosystem. Reach out today for a tour, to volunteer, donate or all of the above!



SCHOOL TOURS AND LEARNING THROUGH CWWC

FATHER'S DAY

WITH THE WOLVES



Sunday, June 20th · 9-11am
Wolf Tour · Breakfast Burritos · Raffle

\$40 (12 & older) · \$20 (6-11)
RSVP today · Space is limited 719.687.9742

Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center
wolfeducation.org

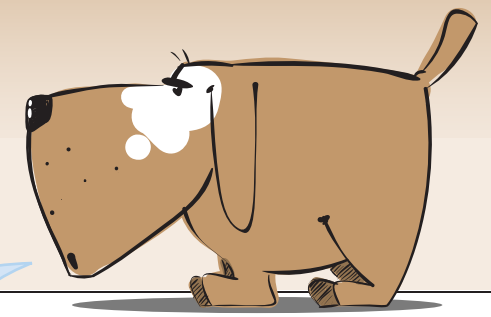
Adoption corner

TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



[NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707.]

CHEYENNE »

AGE: 2 years 2 months
SEX: Male/Neutered
German Shepherd/Mix

Hi, I'm Clooney! My ears are a little big for my head, but my human friends here keep telling me that they find it adorable. I'm an energetic fellow and I'm looking for a best friend to teach me and accompany me through this life.



« SUNSHINE

AGE: 5 years 4 months
SEX: Male/Neutered
Domestic Shorthair/Mix

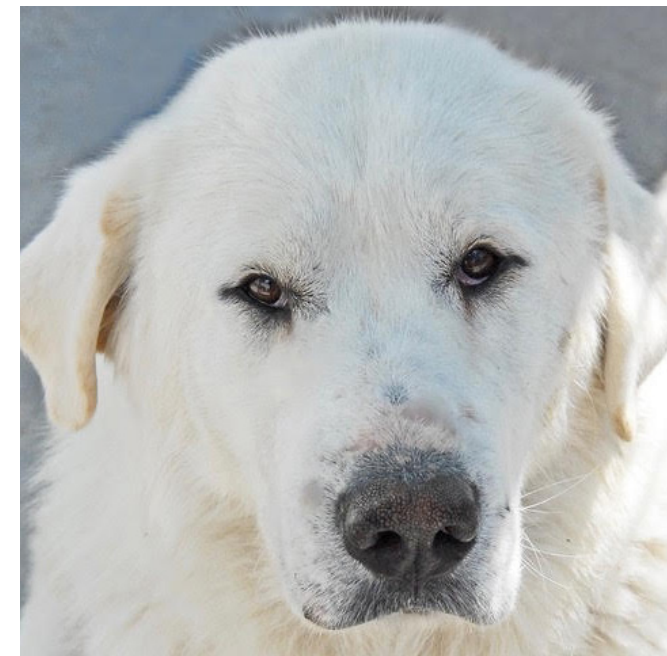
My name is Sunshine! At just around 5 years old, I've already learned most of my manners. I'm very sweet and desire nothing more than attention from anybody who will give it to me. I do have a bit of spunk in me and a couple quirks.



**SLVAWS
ADOPTION FAIR**
Every Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm
at the Petco in Colorado Springs
5020 N. Nevada

« ASPEN

This is Aspen, a 4-year-old Great Pyrenees mix. She came in as a stray with two babies. She is so-o-o mellow and lovable. She doesn't like to share her food. She is about 80 pounds, spayed, chipped, all vaccinations.



BRANDI »

Sweet, sweet, sweet husky. 4 years old. Needs to be an only pet. Spayed, chipped, all vacc's, about 60 lbs. Everyone who meets her falls in love.

